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# Alumni Columns

VOL. X—NO. 7

NORTHWESTERN STATE COLLEGE

MARCH, 1951

## BLUE RIBBON WINNERS



Pictured above is the blue ribbon educational exhibit of the Boothville Elementary School at the Fifth Annual Orange Bowl Festival which was held at Buras on December 10.

The exhibit is mechanical in nature, and used flashing colored lights to represent the different products of Plaquemines Parish, that section of the State of Louisiana that includes the last 100 miles of the meandering Mississippi River with its many mouths leading into the Gulf of Mexico.

Mr. Raymond Shetley, B. S. '49, pictured at the left, is principal of the 5-teacher school, and Mr. Billy Roy Snead, B. S. '50, right, is a teacher in the school. Both Shetley and Snead, veterans of World War II, are teaching their first year and are to be congratulated upon winning the first prize in an educational exhibit that brings them in competition with experienced teachers and larger schools. Evidently, they are doing a good job deep in the delta of the Mississippi.

## Air Force Wants No-Segregation In Special Training Schools

A personal investigation and study of the facilities and equipment available at Northwestern State College for a special school in business and clerical and office training of Air Forces personnel was made recently by two officials of the Air Forces. They reported that the set-up on our campus was eminently satisfactory and that they would recommend the institution most favorably.

Some time after the inspection, a call came to the office of President H. Lee Prather from Scott Field asking whether this institution would accept all Air Force personnel sent, regardless of race or color.

Mr. Prather replied, quite obviously, that the final answer to

that question rested with the State Board of Education; however, that answer would, in all probability, be "NO." President Prather was told that he would be notified later just what action would be taken on the application for a special school at Northwestern State.

If this policy of non-segregation is strictly adhered to by the Air Forces, it means definitely that few or no schools in the South will be permitted to offer, and have accepted by the Air Forces, the splendid facilities available for training these groups.

During the last war Northwestern State conducted for the U. S. Navy a training program that received the highest recommendation from the Navy Department. It was not necessary at that time to force a non-segregation policy upon colleges such as ours.

It is sincerely hoped that such a needless policy on the part of the

military authorities will not be enforced and that institutions in the South can contribute their just share in the proposed training schools for men in the armed forces of our country.

## FACULTY NOTES

### President Prather Attends NAIB

President H. Lee Prather attended the sessions of the National Association of Intercollegiate Basketball at Kansas City early this month. Mr. Prather is president of the NAIB and presided at most of the business sessions of the conference. Thirty-two of the nation's top basketball teams among the smaller colleges participated in the tournament. Southeastern Louisiana College of Hammond was the Louisiana representative.

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## Placement Committee Planned By N. O. Alumni

Plans are being perfected to set up a placement bureau in New Orleans by the alumni unit of that city for the purpose of helping to place graduates in positions in New Orleans.

At the last meeting of the New Orleans group, March 5, Herman P. Durham, president of the unit, discussed the possibility of setting up such a committee or bureau in connection with the Alumni and Placement office at the College. Alumni Secretary, Leroy Miller, who was present at the meeting, is working with the committee and will direct graduates, particularly in the fields of business and industry, to the New Orleans committee for placement in such positions as they may be able to locate.

The local committee will arrange for appointments with prospective employers, and present letters of introduction or personally introduce the applicant to the employer.

This is a splendid project being planned by the New Orleans alumni. If it proves successful, and we have every reason to believe that it will, it is hoped that similar groups can be organized in other cities of the state.

## Student Prank Ends In Tragedy

The entire campus was deeply grieved when the body of Allen Kaplan, freshman student from 37 Maverick, Chelsea, Massachusetts, was found in Red River the morning of March 9. Presumably, Kaplan was drowned in Red River near Grande Ecore on the night of March 1.

After a week of continuous and intensive search in the wooded area around Grande Ecore and along the river, the body was located in the river about 5 miles below the Grande Ecore bridge. It is presumed that Kaplan, fleeing in the darkness because of the "irate husband" joke, fell over the bluff at Grande Ecore.

As a consequence solely of a student prank and in no way connected with any fraternity initiation or hazing, the tragic results brought a pall of gloom and sadness following the week of fear

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## Thousands Visit Campus This Month

The month of March is always a busy time on the campus of Northwestern State because of the numerous conventions, tournaments, and festivals that are staged annually at this season of the year. Add to these events the beginning of the baseball and track season, and you find some form of activity going on almost every day.

Following a Career Day for senior high school girls on March 1 was the Louisiana Forensic Tournament, staged on the campus on March 9-10. Twenty-eight colleges and universities from the states of Arkansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and Louisiana took part in the tournament.

The Future Homemakers of America held their annual Central District Rally here on March 16-17. Schools from all the central Louisiana parishes were represented, and the home economics students of the College acted as hostesses.

\* \* \*

## National American Legion Basketball Tournament

Coming to the campus on March 29-31 will be the National American Legion Basketball Tournament. This will be the first time the national tournament has been held in the South.

Red River Post 118 at Coushatta won the tournament last year in Kansas, and the winning team has the privilege of choosing the location for the next year's tournament. Coushatta chose Northwestern as the site of the 1951 tournament. Fourteen states have entered the tournament, and they are: Louisiana, Utah, Mississippi, South Carolina, Indiana, Wisconsin, Kansas, Illinois, Michigan, Iowa, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Pennsylvania.

\* \* \*

## District Music Festival

A record enrollment of more than 3,000 is expected for the annual district Music Festival to be held on March 30-31. The festival will be climaxed by a mass marching band spectacle on the last night of their scheduled meeting.

The fourteen parishes of northwestern Louisiana are included in the district, and early reports indicate that all parishes will have representatives in the various music activities. Parishes included in the district are: Avoyelles, Bossier, Caddo, Catahoula, Concordia,

De Soto, Grant, La Salle, Natchitoches, Rapides, Red River, Sabine, Vernon, and Winn.

\* \* \*

## Northwestern Invitational Relays

All seven Louisiana Colleges in the Gulf States Conference and forty high schools are expected to be represented in the Northwestern State College 13th annual invitational relays on March 31.

According to the rules governing the relays, there will be three groups of competition. The colleges will compete among themselves, and in the high school competition. Class AA and Class A schools will compete against each other, while the third group will be composed of Class B and Class C schools.

A plaque will be presented the winner of each group in the 410, 880, and mile relays. Ribbons will be given first, second, and third place winners in individual events. In addition, the W. W. Turner trophy will be awarded to the high school making the most outstanding performance in the relays. The "N" Club trophy will be awarded to the outstanding high school athlete in each of the high school groups.

## STUDENT PRANK

(Continued from Page 1)

and uneasiness, during which every possible effort was made to locate Kaplan.

The freshman's father, Norman Kaplan, and his uncle, Harold Kaplan, came from Massachusetts to aid in the search, reaching the campus on March 6.

Kaplan's body was shipped by air to his home town of Chelsea for interment.

### FATHER HOLDS NO MALICE

Mr. Kaplan, who collapsed upon learning of the death of his son, realized that nothing could be done punitively, since the tragedy was unintentional. His statement before leaving for home included these words:

"I realize that this college prank, even though it resulted in the death of my son, could have happened anywhere. I hold no malice in my heart toward anyone involved."

President Prather made the following statement: "The College officials at present concur with the generous opinion expressed by the distraught father—that no attempt should be made to punish the group of young college students responsible for the prank that had such a tragic result. Obviously any reasonable measures that might be taken to that end

## JOHN AND GWENDOLYN—PRIZE WINNERS



Pictured above are John H., Jr., four years of age, and Gwendolyn, age 5 years, with the radios won as first prizes in the R. L. Zigler Red Rider Carnival held in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, in which 75 contestants were entered.

John and Gwendolyn are the children of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Sikes of 1525 Hackberry Lane, Tuscaloosa. Mrs. Sikes is the former Gwendolyn Russell.

The other member of the Sikes family is little Pamela Dawn, 5-months-old daughter.

Mrs. Sikes stated that with two new radios going full blast, usually on different stations, and Pamela adding her contribution to the general din, there is plenty of static, but certainly a loud and merry time is had by all.

would be wholly inadequate to atone for the lamentable affair.

"All of us have learned an important lesson. The significance of the lesson, taught and learned at such irreparable cost, will assuredly not be lost to the administration, to the faculty, or to the students themselves."

## FACULTY NOTES

(Continued from Page 1)

### Physical Education Representatives At Richmond Meeting

Mr. Guy W. Nesom, Director of Health and Physical Education, Miss Jean Harper and Miss Glenna Williams, members of the staff of the Health and Physical Education Department, attended the Southern District meeting of the American Association for Health, Physical Education, and

Recreation at Richmond, Virginia, this month.

During the meeting, Miss Jean Harper was elected to the office of Secretary for the Dance Section of the Southern District of the AAHPER.

Mr. Nesom was elected vice-president of the Southern District, and will serve as chairman of the Recreation Division. Mr. Nesom was a member of the Legislative Assembly, and he also served as chairman of the aquatic section and as panel member of the Professional Education meeting.

\* \* \*

### Kyser Attends Chicago Meet

Dr. John S. Kyser, Head of the Social Science Department, read a paper on Louisiana at the annual (See Page 3—Kyser)



**KYSER—(Continued)**

annual meeting of the National Association of American Geographers at Chicago on March 20-22.

The title of the paper was "Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana, A Sub-Delta of the Mississippi." The exposition stressed the extraordinary natural and other conditions that combine to make Louisiana's largest parish—larger than the State of Rhode Island—a unique segment of the entire Gulf Coastal province of the U. S.

From Chicago, Dr. Kyser went to Austin, Texas, to attend a meeting of the Southwestern Social Science Association.

## **Demons Wind Up Basketball Season With 15 Won, 12 Lost**

The Demon basketball team wound up its season this month with a record of 15 games won and 12 lost. In G. S. C. competition, the record was an even break with 8 won and 8 lost.

Southeastern Louisiana College defeated the Demons in the NAIB sudden-death tournament to determine the Louisiana representative. The tournament was held at Hammond.

Three of the starters of this season's squad will be lost to the team next season by graduation. Johnny McConathy of Bryceland, Linwood Ouzts of Minden, and Hershhal McConathy of Florien will graduate this year, leaving only Jim Yergler and Artie Ranew, sophomore and junior respectively, as a nucleus for next year from the starting five of 1951.

\* \* \*

## **J. McConathy On GSC First Team**

Johnny McConathy, who scored 382 points in 27 games this season, set a new scoring record for the Gulf States Conference, topping the record of 480 points made by Claude Stoutamire last year by 102 points. He was selected as first team center on the All-Conference GSC team.

Ranew, Ouzts, and Hershhal McConathy all received honorable mention for the GSC team selections, but did not receive enough votes to be listed on the conference first or second team.

## **ALUMNI COLUMNS**

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## **BASEBALL GETS UNDER WAY DEMONS LOSE FIRST FOUR**

Running into tough opposition in the first games of the season, the Demon nine failed to hit in the clutches and dropped all four games.

The Southern Illinois University team made it two in a row when they defeated the Demons by scores of 1-3 and 3-0 on successive days. They were followed on the campus by the University of Houston team, who took both games of their series by scores of 7-2 and 1-0.

Coach Brown used practically every man on the squad during each game in an effort to find his best playing combinations for Gulf States Conference competition.

With two games being played at Barksdale Field during the Easter holidays, the Demons returned to the campus for a game with Mississippi State before meeting any GSC opponent.

Last season the Demon nine had a conference percentage of .500, but the roster of players this year finds many outstanding players of last season missing. This loss is due to graduation and enlistment in the armed services.

## **TRACK TEAM PRACTICE BEGUN**

Following the conclusion of spring football practice, Coach Turpin called on all candidates for track to report on March 5.

Holdovers from last year's squad include John Patton, star hurdler, who placed third in the Sugar Bowl meet at New Orleans; Johnny McConathy, high jumper; Dan Poole, 440 and 330-yard man; and Buck Anderson, Junior Turner, and Arthur Lancaster, all relay men.

Newcomers to this year's squad include Billy Hartt, Ray Kelly, Murray Walker, George Davis, Buddy Hildebrand, Ken Corley, Bob Broussard, Dennis Rider, "Toosie" Thomas, Jules Robichaux, Bob Weaver, and Johnny Maricelli.

The first meet of the season for the Demons will be the annual invitation relays on the campus on March 31.

## **Nine Swimmers Earn Letters**

Climaxing a season in which the Demons won five of their seven dual swimming meets, Coach John Piscopo recommended nine members of the squad for varsity letters.

## **JOHNNY JENKINS**



Johnny, age 5 years and 10 months, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Jenkins of 331 Monroe Street, Eugene, Oregon. Mrs. Jenkins is the former Alma E. Baker, ex-'36, of Rosa.

Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins have been living in Eugene for the past eleven years, and she states that the Alumni Columns is the greatest contact she has with former classmates of the old "Normal." Before moving to Oregon, Mrs. Jenkins taught several years at Morrow High School. She is eager to return to the campus and bring her young son to show him her old school.

Those earning letters are Jack Branch, team captain, Little Rock; Kenneth Howard, Shreveport; Ben Duhon, Baton Rouge; Dennis Rider, Hodge; Jeff Hennessy, Robert Voorhees, and Myron Locky, all of Monroe; Jack Gaston, El Dorado; and Henry Lyle, Brooklyn, N. Y.

A survey of the season's dual meets shows Northwestern defeated Vanderbilt, 51-24; Memphis Navy, 47-28 (here) and 44-31 (there); Pensacola Navy, 44-32; and Emory University, 40-35. The two defeats were at the hands of Southern Methodist University, 45-30, and Texas A. & M., 42-33. Participating in the post-season Southeastern A. A. U. meet in Atlanta, the Demons placed sixth.

Captain Branch and Jeff Hennessy will be lost to the team next season by graduation; however Coach Piscopo expects to have another brilliant season for his tank team next year.

## **Gymnastic Team To Defend SAAU Title**

Working out daily, the gymnastic team is preparing for three crucial meets scheduled for April when

they have to defend their title as Southern A. A. U. champions, won last year in New Orleans. Al Kopp, captain of the team, is out to retain his title as the Southern all-around gymnastic champion.

The Demons' first meet of the season will be with the Dallas Athletic Club here on the campus on April 7. This event will have as a special attraction four of the outstanding girl tumblers of the nation. Jo Ann Slocum, 1951 National A. A. U. champion, will give a special performance of her skill as will Beverley Gallagher, present Southwestern A. A. U. trampoline and tumbling champion. In addition, Barbara Gallagher and Sue Ragsdale, top Dallas Athletic Club tumblers, will perform with the two champions.

On April 10 the Demons will be in Hattiesburg, Miss., participating in the Southern A. A. U. championship meet. Both the Northwestern team and its captain will defend their titles there.

The third meet will find the Demon gymnasts participating in the Southwest gymnastic championships at the Dallas Athletic Club on April 21.

## **INDUSTRIAL ARTS CONTEST SLATED FOR APRIL 28**

To stimulate greater interest in industrial arts and vocational-industrial education in Louisiana, the Industrial Education Department of the College is sponsoring a state-wide Industrial Education Awards contest here Saturday, April 28.

This contest will be patterned largely after the Ford Motor Company's annual industrial award contest. Winners in the event will be certified for entry in the Ford regional contest at Kansas City in June.

Competitors will be classified into four groups depending upon the age and experience of the student. Entries may be made by students from the seventh grade through the senior year of high school and vocational students who spend more than ten hours a week in the courses.

Based on both mastery of knowledge and craftsmanship, the contest will be conducted in each of 16 areas open to contestants.

Rules of the contest and entry blanks are being sent out to more than 100 secondary and vocational schools in Louisiana. Any person interested and not receiving an entry blank should contact Dr. Walter J. Robinson, Industrial Education Department, Northwestern State College, Natchitoches, Louisiana.



## ALUMNI Here 'n There

A recent letter from Mrs. Nash Gray (Leola Marcelle, A. B. '33) states that she is now living at Clemson College, South Carolina.

After graduating from N. S. C. and teaching two years in Haynesville, she did graduate study at Scarritt College, Nashville, Tennessee. While at Scarritt College, she met her husband, Nash Gray. After their marriage they moved to South Carolina.

Mr. and Mrs. Gray have two children—Pete, who will be 10 years of age in June, and Mary, who is five.

After reading in the *Alumni Columns* that Mrs. J. T. Hooker had moved to her old home at Hamer, S. C., Mrs. Gray made contact with Mrs. Hooker, and now the two are looking forward to a nice visit with each other.

\* \* \*

Major Emily U. Miller, A. B. '24, of Waterproof, has recently arrived in Germany from the United States. She is the first Woman's Army Corps officer to be assigned to an ordnance field installation in the European command.

Major Miller enlisted in the WAC in August, 1942.

\* \* \*

Major Horace Bamburg and his wife, Margaret (Peggy) Myers, were visitors to the campus this past week. They are now stationed at Dow Air Force Base, Bangor, Maine.

From Natchitoches, the Bamburgs will return to his base via Hattiesburg, Miss., to visit with Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Saetre.

Incidentally, the Bamburgs have only two children, not four as was erroneously reported last September. The children are Cathy, age 5, and Mark, age 2.

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A letter from Pfc. Richard F. Johnston, B. S. summer, 1950, states that he is now stationed at Scott Air Force Base. He and three other N. S. C. men are studying radio mechanics and would like to get the *Alumni Columns* and *Current Sauce* to keep up with activities on the campus. And they like to get letters too. His address is: Pfc. Richard F. Johnston, AF 18358211, 3319th Stu. Sq., Box 313, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois.

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A note from Henry L. Cain stated that he enjoyed receiving the *Columns* and sent us a change

## JUST MARRIED



Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Harrison Baker, Jr., are shown coming down the steps of St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Alexandria, just after having taken the marriage vows. Mrs. Baker is the former Iris Colleen Woods, A. B. '44. The young couple are at home at 2011 Madeline Street, Alexandria.

of address: Dr. H. L. Cain, President, Mexico City College, Chapas 138, Mexico, D. F.

Dr. Cain was superintendent of the American School Foundation in Mexico City for many years. He established the Mexico City College several years ago and has been serving as president since that time.

\* \* \*

Mrs. Edgar C. Bundy, the former Lela May Nash, A. B. '39, of Bunkie, is now residing at 1407 Hill Avenue, Wheaton, Illinois.

Mrs. Bundy taught at Bunkie for many years and was married to Captain Edgar C. Bundy on July 12, 1949. Her husband being an evangelist, soldier, newspaper man and world traveler, Mrs. Bundy served with him as delegate to the International Council of Churches, Geneva, Switzerland. She was an honor graduate and a member of Kappa Delta Pi, honorary co-educational fraternity.

Mr. Bill Charleville, former student on the campus, was a visitor in town recently. He is now living at 857 Wilkinson, Shreveport, where he expects to be located for some time.

\* \* \*

A note from LaDelle Sandifer, B. S. '49, states that he is in service and asked that his *Alumni Columns* be mailed to him at the following address: Pvt. Benjamin LaDelle Sandifer, US 54004325, Hq. and Sv. Co., 432nd Engr. Const. Bn., Camp Pickett, Virginia. Prior to his entry into the service, Sandifer was teaching in Mansfield.

\* \* \*

S/Sgt. Paul M. Buckley, Hq. and Hq. Sqdn., 3555 Med. Grp., Perrin Air Force Base, Sherman, Texas, writes that he has just recently been promoted to Staff Sergeant. He has been in the Air Force for the past three years and states that he has been enjoying

the *Alumni Columns* throughout his service in the Air Forces.

\* \* \*

Tommy C. Wimberly, B. S. fall 1950, who hails from Coushatta but has been teaching at Sulphur this term, recently made a perfect score on his Navy entrance mental examination, scoring 90 correct out of 90 questions. He expects to leave for the Navy on March 27.

\* \* \*

Mrs. Ray DeWald, the former Allene Moody, now receives her mail at P. O. Box 437, West Sacramento, California. She received her B. S. Degree in Home Economics in 1943. Her home town is Pekin, Illinois.

\* \* \*

Miss Bobbie Elkins, A. B. '51, of Shongaloo, is assistant to the new Claiborne Parish library demonstration with headquarters at Homer.

\* \* \*

Zane G. Gaddis, SOG 1, U. S. S. Hoquiam (PF-5) c/o Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, Calif., writes President Prather from Korea that he thinks he has an excellent prospective basketball player whom he is urging to attend NSC when he gets out of service. Among other things he said: "To me, your appointment as president was a most fitting appointment. I can think of no one who has more real friends and devotees among the alumni than you. . . . Your present position is a living testimony of the fruits of hard labor."

## Cupid's Doings

MISS MARY LOUISE LEEVEE, A. B. '50, of Washington, D. C., and MR. DOUGLAS C. ABINGTON, JR., of Natchitoches, were married January 23 at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Natchitoches. The young couple will reside in Natchitoches. The groom is in business here and the bride worked on the advertising staff of the Colfax Chronicle prior to the wedding.

\* \* \*

MISS REBECCA JANE ROCKEFELLER, former student, and Mr. Jack Page Ashley, both of Shreveport, were married at the home of the bride's parents on February 4. They will make their home in Shreveport.

MISS JOYCE MARIE LANDRY, B. S. '50, of Gonzales, and MR. FRANK J. PASQUA, student at the College, were married at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Gonzales on January 24. The bride and groom are living in Natchitoches, where the groom is continuing his work in school. The bride is doing secretarial work in the office of the ROTC on the campus.









NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY



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